



# **Litchfield Elementary School District**

## **Digital Learning Academy**

### **Program Guide**

**2021-2022**

# Litchfield Digital Learning Academy

The Litchfield Elementary School District (LESD) is accepting registration from students in grades K-8 who wish to enroll for the 2021-2022 school year in the LESD Digital Learning Academy (DLA).

## **LESD Digital Learning Academy Mission**

To provide students, who thrive in a digital setting, with a high-quality, engaging educational experience that is student-centered, rigorous and challenging.

## **LESD Digital Learning Academy 2021-2022 School Goals:**

- Implement high-quality live online instruction that promotes continuous growth to close the achievement gap, ensure proficiency, and cultivate 21st Century skills.
- Create educational pathways to further meet the individualized needs of all learners.
- Ensure all students have access to rigorous and relevant learning opportunities.
- Provide students with supports that promote social emotional well-being and create a strong and connected classroom and school community.

## **Program Background**

LESD is committed to providing instruction that meets the diverse needs of individual learners. The Litchfield Elementary School District has long had a reputation for excellence and providing high quality educational programming for the students in our community. District schools and leaders have received numerous awards and recognitions over the years for performance. LESD schools received very high marks under the state's A-F accountability system. We are proud of the continued outstanding performance of our students, our teachers, and the support of our community.

Parents have many choices in selecting schools and learning pathways to meet their children's educational needs goals. Having an online educational option was clearly indicated as a need that families in our community felt was not currently being met in our district service menu. The program opened as a virtual learning model, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with approximately 2,700 students and has been a huge success with both students and parents. As a result the district administration officially created the Digital Learning Academy as school seventeen for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **Program Overview**

LESD Digital Learning Academy is a full-time virtual teaching/learning online school which will include live teacher-led instruction (recordings made available after live lessons) and asynchronous learning using appropriately certified LESD teachers and staff and board adopted curriculum. Classes include class meetings, whole group instruction, small group instruction, and 1-to-1 support. Students' social-emotional learning is provided through our district-wide adoption of Conscious Discipline. Students have access to specials' classes, enrichment activities and events, special interest clubs and sports. Learning is both synchronous and asynchronous, whereby students are required to work independently while continuing to build strong student agency.

Digital Learning Academy teachers work as a collaborative group within local school campuses. Teachers utilize project-based learning and educational technology tools to teach coding/computer science along with our board approved K-8 curriculum.

Parents are expected to be strong partners and learning coaches in the educational success of their children. Teachers work closely with parents to ensure that students are making good academic progress and demonstrating appropriate classroom behavior.

## **What Makes the LESD Digital Learning Academy Unique**

- 5 days per week of instruction using best practices for online learning, SEL, intervention and additional support
- Content designed and delivered from LESD teachers and curriculum
- Live teacher-led instruction and asynchronous learning
- Small group instruction
- 1:1 support
- Accommodations and support services provided
- Use of Conscious Discipline to create strong and connected classroom communities.
- Specials
- Enrichment and extension opportunities provided
- Students from anywhere in Arizona are able to register for the Digital Learning Academy

## **Hours of the Program**

LESD Digital Learning Academy students will follow a daily class schedule 5 days a week. Students will spend time interacting with the teacher in live sessions. During other times, students will be working independently or in small groups. The Digital Learning Academy school day will be 8:00am to 3:00pm. Hours of operation may be adjusted by the Superintendent on an annual basis.

## **Is the LESD Digital Learning Academy right for my child and my family?**

### **Qualities of a Successful Digital Learning Academy Student**

- Can work unsupervised and independently online
- Is comfortable participating in an online classroom
- Is enthusiastic and motivated about learning and seeks out learning opportunities
- Is committed to asynchronous/independent learning at home
- Proven success with online learning

### **Behavior/Attendance Expectations**

LESD believes that all students can learn at high levels. In order to support our students to accomplish this, our staff and students must diligently work to create environments where all students feel safe, loved, and a sense of belonging. Only when students feel these three things can they access their higher levels of learning. Because of this, the following district-wide expectations were created for all students. This includes following all school and District rules as outlined in the [LESD Student Handbook](#).

#### **DLA Student Expectations:**

- Attend all classes daily
- Engage in positive, safe, legal and ethical behavior when using technology, including social interactions online or when using networked devices
- Fully participate in live and independent learning activities, including work submission

#### **DLA Student Attendance:**

Children in 1st-8th grades in Arizona are required by Arizona State Statute to attend school daily, including Arizona online instruction. DLA students are expected to attend all classes on a daily basis. Attendance will be taken in each period of the day in order to report full and half day absences to the state. If a DLA student has habitual absences or tardies, the student's parents, the student's teachers and the principal shall confer to evaluate whether the student should be allowed to continue to participate in Arizona online instruction. If a DLA student will be absent, the parent/guardian must call the office to report the absence.

### *Arizona Revised Statute §8-201*

*It is unlawful for any child who is between six (6) and sixteen (16) years of age to fail to attend school during the hours school is in session, unless either:*

- *The child is excused pursuant to §15-802, subsection D or §5-901, subsection A, paragraph 5, subdivision(c).*
- *The child is accompanied by a parent or a person authorized by a parent.*
- *The child is provided with instruction in a homeschool.*

*A child who is habitually truant or who has excessive absences may be adjudicated an incorrigible child as defined in §8-201. Absences may be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in §15-802, subsection B, paragraph 1.*

### **DLA Student Academics**

In order for students to be successful in school, they need to complete assigned work and assessments. This allows for the student to receive feedback from the teacher, get support if concepts are unclear, or to provide opportunities for enrichment. DLA students are required to complete assigned work and assessments. If a DLA student habitually does not complete work assigned, the student's parents, the student's teachers and the principal shall confer to evaluate whether the student should be allowed to continue to participate in Arizona online instruction.

### *Arizona Revised Statutes Title 15 Education § 15-808:*

*If the academic achievement of a pupil declines while the pupil is participating in Arizona online instruction, the pupil's parents, the pupil's teachers and the principal or head teacher of the school shall confer to evaluate whether the pupil should be allowed to continue to participate in Arizona online instruction.*

AzM2 is the statewide achievement test for Arizona students. DLA students in Grades 3 - 8 are required take the grade level AzM2 assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The following procedure will be used to provide students of concern (academic or attendance) with support: The school team will determine the root cause of concern. At this time, the team may refer the student for targeted and specific learning interventions or create a Student Success Plan for students to prevent or address declining academic performance due to a lack of quantity and quality of classwork including lack of engagement or participation. Student Success Plans also address student behavior that is inhibiting their online success.

Unresolved academic or attendance issues may result in the student returning to his or her home school for in-person learning when it is deemed in the best interest of the learning progress of the child enrolled in the Digital Learning Academy.

## **Parent Expectations**

Research shows that students achieve at higher levels when parents are involved in the educational process of their children. Parents are expected to be partners with teachers and the principal to create this success. It is essential that parents set at home expectations and provide a space dedicated for your child's learning. Below are specific actions parents can take to support their child while attending an online school.

- Encourage and support independent learning and student agency
- Partner with the school and child to be a good digital citizen
- Contribute to a positive online climate by creating a distraction free environment during school hours as well as reaching out to teachers via email rather than during classroom instruction
- Provide the required technology and internet access for your child to be successful

## **LESD Digital Learning Academy Curriculum**

The LESD Digital Learning Academy will utilize instructional strategies that are comprehensive of research-based online best practices: Universal design in course development, 21st century instructional strategies including the use of the gradual release of responsibility model, differentiation in learning styles, and alignment to Arizona State Standards. Lessons and content are aligned with the LESD adopted curriculum and resources, and are consistent with the lessons occurring on our campuses. Classwork will be a mixture of online and offline work. Attendance will be taken daily and grades are a reflection of mastery of grade level standards.

### **LESD adopted curriculum Kindergarten-5th grades:**

- Reading/ELA - Wonders
- Foundations - K-3
- Writing - Step Up to Writing
- Math - EngageNY/Eureka In Sync
- Science - Mystery Science
- Social Studies - Wonders

### **LESD adopted curriculum 6th-8th grades:**

- Reading/ELA - StudySync
- Social Studies - Lessons built from critical standards
- Science - Lessons built from critical standards
- Writing - StudySync and NoRedInk
- Math - Eureka Math In Sync

Resources and digital tools that teachers may use to deliver content:

- Google Classroom - Learning Management System
- G Suite for Education Apps (Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc)
- Nearpod - content delivery platform
- Google Meet/Zoom - Live meeting platform
- Screencastify - Live lesson recording and presentation platform
- Jamboard - Virtual whiteboard
- Hyperdocs/Choice Boards
- NoRedInk - 6-8
- Newsela - 3-8
- MobyMax - K-8 all subjects

Other tools a teacher may use might include: Flipgrid, Seesaw, Edpuzzle - integrates questions into video lessons, Wakelet, Kami, Quizlet or Quizzes, Kahoot.

**LESD Digital Learning Academy Registration Process**

The LESD Digital Learning Academy is open to current LESD students and new students to LESD. Because all classwork is online/remote, students from outside the LESD boundaries are able to register for the Digital Learning Academy through the Open Enrollment Application Process.

New Students to LESD:

Parents interested in entrance into the Litchfield Digital Learning Academy will need to complete a registration form for each child seeking admittance to the Digital Learning Academy. Parents may register students at our district office at 272 E. Sagebrush St., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340 and may be reached by phone at 623-535-6000.

Current LESD students:

Parents interested in moving from their neighborhood school to the DLA should contact the registrar at their current school to begin the transfer process.

\*Registrations will be accepted for slots that still remain and/or students may be placed on a waitlist for entrance.